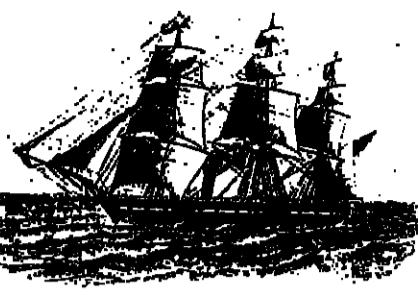


The Oceanography Report



H.M.S. CHALLENGER PREPARING TO MOOR, 1874

The Oceanography Report
The focal point for physical, chemical, geological, and biological oceanographers.

Associate Editors: Arnold L. Gordon, Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, Palisades, New York, 10464 (telephone 914/535-2900, ext. 325)

IUGG Quadrennial Report Overview: Physical Oceanography

Ants Leetmaa

NASA Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories, Miami, FL 33149

To a great extent, this U.S. physical oceanographic report to IUGG (1979-1982) focuses on advances made in large-scale oceanography. Reviews are presented for the areas of equatorial oceanography, subtropical gyre studies, polar oceanography, mid-latitude variability, and oceanic heat flux. The last topic is a common thread that runs through all the reviews since there is the realization that the ocean is an essential element in determining the climate of the earth. With increased concern over the coastal zone as a region where recreational, commercial energy, and fisheries interests overlap, a great deal of effort has also gone into investigating the oceanography of the continental margins. Since no review of coastal oceanography occurred in the last report, this report has an extensive discussion of what has been learned in the last eight years.

Garrett and Munk developed in the seventies a universal deep-ocean spectrum of the internal wave field that described its energy levels and coherence structure. As was true four years ago, observational efforts are still underway to find deviations from this universal spectrum. Not surprisingly, deviations have been found where the model was not meant to apply: near bottom sloping boundaries, islands, the ocean surface, the equator, at the inertial frequency, regions where N varies rapidly, and at high frequencies near the spectral roll-off. Theoretical efforts use ideas of weak and strong interactions to obtain stochastic descriptions of the wave field. The validity of the weak-interaction models is being tested. A goal of the theoretical studies is to understand the flow of energy through the wave field and to identify its sources and sinks. This has proven difficult since the waves apparently are unforced most of the time and only slowly receive or lose energy. Although much of the internal wave activity can be described efficiently using statistical measures, some phenomena have dominant frequencies or wavelengths. Work in this category includes observational and model studies of the internal tide and solitary waves which are generated by the internal tide flowing over ridges and sills.

A major emphasis in Arctic and Antarctic oceanography has been studies of the mechanisms and rates of water mass formation and the effects of deep convection. Rates of ventilation have been determined with the aid of geochemical tracers such as tritium and stable oxygen isotopes. Descriptions of equatorward spreading have been inferred from water mass properties and direct current measurements in deep channels. In the Arctic and Antarctic the processes occurring along the continental margins have been shown to be important in determining the offshore water mass and circulation patterns. Direct measurements in the Drake Passage have put bounds on the transport of the Circumpolar Current. Mesoscale variability, which results from baroclinic instability and fine structure intrusions that occur across fronts, could be major factors in the poleward heat transport. Progress has been made in modeling of sea ice and understanding ocean-ice-glacier interactions and how these affect the heat flux to the atmosphere.

Studies along the continental margins of the United States have concentrated primarily on obtaining basic descriptions of the currents and hydrography. Physical factors such as stratification, fresh water inputs, ice, shelf width and depth, local and remote wind forcing, tidal forcing, and proximity to strong offshore currents can all effect circulation patterns. Hence, the circulation on different shelves can be controlled by different processes. For example, the circulation on the outer shelf in the southeastern United States is dominated by eddies from the Gulf Stream.

Further north along the Georges Bank, tidal flows and tidal rectification are major factors. By large, however, wind forcing, whether local or remote, is important on all shelves.

Coastally trapped free waves have been identified; hence, local variability does not necessarily correlate with local wind changes.

Along the coast of Peru energy from the equatorial wave guide appears to be present. On some shelves the seasonal and monthly mean circulations as well as the low-frequency variability have been established. Bathymetry exerts a strong control, especially on low-frequency motions. This results in along-isobath coherences being much greater than those across the depth contours. Dynamical studies have led to an understanding of some of the dominant balances. Mechanisms that can lead to cross shelf exchanges have been identified; however, no clear picture exists yet as to how important each of these is.

A major focus of research on mesoscale variability in mid-latitudes has been basin-wide explorations of eddy properties and the search for eddy energy sources. Out of this has developed a zero-order description and rationalization of the eddy field. A dominant

feature of the eddy field is its horizontal inhomogeneity which is related to the pattern of the general circulation. The eddies seem to be generated via instabilities of the strong mean flows and propagate away from these regions. They play an important role in driving recirculations near these strong flows but they don't seem to play a crucial role in the dynamics of the mean flow in the ocean interior. Direct transient wind forcing generates a much lower level of eddy energy activity which is the background signal over most of the subtropical gyre. Eddies can also be generated by instabilities associated with abyssal thermohaline circulations.

With the realization that eddies probably play a minor dynamical role over most of the gyre, a resurgence has occurred in studies of the subtropical gyre. Renewed attention has been paid to collection of new hydrographic sections and analyses of old data. New insights have developed from studies of geochemical tracers. These observations and techniques such as [gr]spiral computations and inverse modeling and their application have been used to study the dynamics and structure of the gyres. Theoretical studies were made of the mechanisms by which water is pumped out of mixed layers into the interior and what determines the vertical structure of the gyres. New techniques such as acoustic tomography are being developed to make large-scale integrated measurements.

One motivation for these studies is the realization that at mid-latitudes the poleward oceanic heat transport is comparable to that by the atmosphere. This conclusion was based on indirect estimates obtained both by studies of the surface heat budget of the ocean and from atmospheric and satellite radiation measurements.

Such investigations give no information about how these transports occur in the oceans. Recent studies using hydrographic and geochemical data provide in-situ estimates which are comparable with the indirect ones. The errors in these direct calculations are no larger than those associated with the indirect techniques. Also, they give information on the mechanisms of the heat transport in the ocean. Inverse theory has also been used for these computations. New applications of the indirect techniques using larger data sets and computer processing have allowed estimates to be made of the heat transport in each ocean basin.

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A major problem facing investigators of the benthic boundary layer in 1979 was understanding the specific mechanisms that were important at the top and bottom of the boundary layer. Since then, notable progress has occurred. Specific areas include: (a) pa-

rmetrization of distributed roughness on the sea floor; (b) including the effects of stratification due to density and suspended sediment on vertical mixing; (c) understanding wave-current interactions, where the mean current is now parameterized as an increase in apparent roughness; and (d) understanding the effects of biological activity on critical entrainment stresses. A measure of the progress is that all these effects are now routinely incorporated in models of mobile bed flow. This required an understanding and evaluation from field data of the effects of stratification and bed roughness on the scaling parameters, such as z_0 and U^* , that describe the viscous sub-layer and logarithmic regions of the simple boundary layer models. Von Karman's constant is proclaimed to be 0.41.

During the past four years progress has been made in measuring and interpreting small-scale temperature and shear spectra. In the latter case a complete spectrum over wavenumber has been constructed and this shows regions that are consistent with classical ideas of three-dimensional turbulence. The importance of small scale processes in controlling two large-scale processes has been demonstrated. In the equatorial region, the dissipation of kinetic energy above the Equatorial Undercurrent has been shown to occur at the same rate that the zonal pressure gradient puts energy into this flow. In mid-latitudes salt fingering appears to be a factor in controlling the relationship between temperature and salinity. However, the extent of fingering in central waters is still unknown. Nor is it understood why, in general, fingering is less ubiquitous than expected. Sensor development, new measurements, and testing of ideas have gone hand in hand. Progress has resulted from a better understanding of the sensors used for studying the microscale and the interaction between these and the environment. New instruments have been developed that are more reliable and better matched to sampling needs.

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U.S. National Report to IUGG 1979-1982

EOS is periodically publishing the 12 overviews appearing in the *U.S. National Report to the International Union of Geodetic and Geophysical Sciences 1979-1982*. The U.S. National Report is being published by AGU on behalf of the U.S. National Committee in four extra issues of *Reviews of Geophysics and Space Physics* (RGSP). The discipline overview appearing here was published with its associated papers (see Contents at the end of the overview) in volume 21, number 5, June 1983 of RGSP.

Subscribers to RGSP will automatically receive the four extra RGSP issues containing the U.S. National Report. All four extra issues will have been mailed by July 1983. The four regular issues of RGSP are appearing as usual in February, March, August, and November. Those who do not subscribe to RGSP can still obtain the entire U.S. National Report by entering a subscription to RGSP. In addition, the report of each discipline will automatically be mailed separately to those members of AGU for whom that discipline is their primary AGU section affiliation; this separate distribution is made possible by grants from the Defense Mapping Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research, and U.S. Geological Survey.

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Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Department of Earth Sciences/Research Associate, Electron Microprobe. The Department of Earth Sciences invites applications for a Research Associate position as an electron microprobe specialist. The appointment will be a fully funded, permanent, two-year position. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications.

Primary duties are the operation and maintenance of a fully automated microprobe with WDS and EDS capabilities and the supervision of associated laboratory facilities. Additional duties include the instruction of research personnel in instrument operation, and opportunities exist for conducting collaborative research projects involving the micromineral analysis of geological materials.

Applicants should have a M.S. degree in a science or engineering field, or equivalent experience, and experience with electron beam instrumentation. Persons with a working knowledge of WDS and EDS systems and the accompanying computer operation, and experience analyzing geological samples will be preferred.

Application deadline is July 31, 1983. Later applications will be accepted if the position is not filled.

Applications should include a complete resume, a statement of background and interests, copies of publications and names of at least three references. Applications should be sent to:

B. E. Little
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Iowa State University
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Professor of Meteorology/University of Maryland. The Department of Meteorology at the University of Maryland College Park invites applications for a tenure line professorship. We seek a well-established, highly recommended scientist with an outstanding international reputation in atmospheric and ocean modeling and applications. We propose the establishment of a center in study the interaction of the atmosphere, ocean and land processes and their impact on climate variability, and in particular to study the feasibility of short-term climate predictions. The applicant should be qualified to teach at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in geophysics, facilitate research opportunities exist in crystal and engineeering geophysics and all fields of mining geophysics. The department is occupying a new building in 1985, already has well-equipped geophysical and data-processing facilities. Applicants should send a letter outlining their teaching and research goals, accompanied by a full curriculum vitae, including the names of at least three referees. To Dr. W. G. E. Ciskowski, Head, Department of Geophysical Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada S7N 0W0.

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1983 William Bowie Medal to Syun-iti Akimoto

Citation

The 45th William Bowie Medal is awarded to Syun-iti Akimoto for his pioneering work in the application of high-pressure, high-temperature research to geophysical problems. It is a great honor and personal pleasure for me to present to you this warm and generous man, whom I have admired and respected for many years, to receive AGU's most prestigious award. Akimoto joins the ranks of other distinguished scientists in the field of mineral physics who have received the William Bowie Medal: Leason Adams in 1950, Francis Birch in 1960, and A. E. Ringwood in 1974.

High-pressure geophysics research was virtually nonexistent in Japan before 1960. In the 25 years since he joined the faculty of the University of Tokyo, Akimoto has played the leading role in building Japanese high-pressure research as applied to the earth's mantle up to the level where, according to Ted Ringwood, Japan leads the world. Ringwood further attests that, "Akimoto has accomplished this by the example of scientific excellence which he has set in all his research and by his generous encouragement of younger workers."

Two major themes have characterized Akimoto's high-pressure research. He demonstrated the importance of obtaining accurate phase diagrams of major mineral systems as a function of composition, pressure, and temperature. Through quantitative determination of phase transformation boundaries in mantle minerals in the laboratory, Akimoto and his colleagues confirmed the identification of seismic discontinuities in the transition zone (350–1000 km depth) of the earth's mantle with such crystallographic phase transformations. These laboratory data have also been used to estimate the temperature in the transition zone. To make the phase diagrams as accurate as possible, Akimoto devoted considerable time to the establishment of a reliable pressure scale at high temperatures using *in situ* X-ray diffraction techniques. This work is currently being extended by interfacing a cubic anvil apparatus with the synchrotron radiation facility at Tsukuba, Japan.

Akimoto also recognized the importance of constructing large-volume (compared to diamond anvil) high-pressure, high-temperature equipment in order to conduct research on the physical properties of high-pressure minerals. For this purpose he used many different types of equipment including the tetrahedral anvil, Bridgman anvil, DIA-type cubic anvil, split-cylinder, and slide-type cubic anvil systems. Akimoto was a pioneer in this era of rapid advancement in high-pressure research

during which the maximum pressures attainable at elevated temperature in such large-volume equipment increased from the range corresponding to Moho depths into the lower mantle. Invariably, Akimoto improved many technical points of these systems and used them up to their maximum capability. He likes to describe his laboratory to visitors of the Institute of Solid State Physics as a "museum or warehouse of high pressure equipment," but he believed that characterization when he confided to Don Weidner that "only good instruments survive in my laboratory."

Using these large-volume systems Akimoto's laboratory synthesized many high-pressure minerals for physical-properties experiments in his laboratory and also supplied specimens to many scientists and laboratories within Japan and throughout the world for a wide variety of studies: static compression using high-pressure X-ray techniques (Bassett, Liu, Mao, Takahashi), seismic measurements using Brillouin scattering (Weidner), and calorimetry studies of the stability of high-pressure phases (Nigmatyants).

At the ISSP Akimoto has spawned a long series of outstanding graduate students (Furjawa, Ida, Sato, Nishikawa, Yagi, Akaogi, Hamaya, Fukushima, many of whom are now establishing their own laboratories in universities or industrial companies; one of whom, Yosuke Sato, is here tonight). Akimoto has also played a role in this field by generously encouraging the development of new laboratories in older Japanese universities and by nurturing the careers of many young Japanese scientists in these institutions. As typical of the man, he assiduously avoids any credit for these efforts.

Akimoto obtained his Ph.D. in 1950 at the University of Tokyo as a student of Takeshi Nagata. He devoted the next 10 years of his career to the study of rock and mineral magnetism at the Geological Institute of the University of Tokyo. Following the demonstration by Nagata and Ueda that self-reversed magnetization was an intrinsic property of certain natural rocks, Akimoto and others synthesized a wide variety of mineral specimens in the laboratory to study the phenomenon of self-reversal. This use of synthetic specimens with controlled stoichiometries was a significant new development in rock magnetic studies. This work was particularly important since, at the time, magnetic field reversals had not yet been demonstrated, and it was believed possible that all observations of reversed remanent magnetism were due to self-reversal. Later, he made important contributions to our understanding of the behavior of magnetic properties in the titanomagnetites and titanohematites.

Although his high-pressure research has been principally devoted to geophysical problems, Akimoto has also made important contributions to the solid-state physics of semiconductors and their thermal and electrical transport properties. With Japan, Akimoto has cultivated a remarkable symbiotic rela-

tionship between university and industrial programs in high-pressure research. In 1973 the Japan Academy of Sciences awarded Akimoto the Academy Prize for his scientific accomplishments.

Akimoto has admirably represented Japan in international activities ranging from the Upper Mantle Project of the 1960's to the Inter-Union Commission on the Lithosphere of the 1980's. Most recently and most significantly, Akimoto has organized Japan-U.S. seminars on high-pressure geophysics with Murli Manghnani at Honolulu in 1976 and at Hakone, Japan, in 1981. No one who attended the Hakone meeting and the subsequent laboratory tour of Japan will ever forget the scientific excitement or the unsurpassed Japanese hospitality of Akimoto and his countrymen.

In his citation presenting Leason Adams with the William Bowie Medal in 1980, Merle Ture recalled that the deed of the 1939 gift for the William Bowie Medal specifies that its award is to be for "distinguished attainment and outstanding contribution to the advancement of cooperative research in fundamental geophysics." I can think of few geophysicists who fit this criterion so well. Mr. President, on behalf of his students and colleagues throughout the world, it is my pleasure to present to you the 1983 William Bowie Medalist, Akimoto-sensei.

Robert C. Liebermann

Nominations for Medals and Awards

William Bowie Medal. Awarded for outstanding contributions to fundamental geophysics and for unselfish cooperation in research.

Maurice Ewing Medal. Honors an individual who has led the way in understanding the physical, geochemical, and geological processes in the ocean; who is a leader in ocean engineering, technology, and instrumentation; or who has given distinguished service to the marine sciences.

Robert E. Horton Medal. Given for outstanding contributions to the geophysical aspects of hydrology.

James B. Macelwane Award. Up to three awards are given each year for significant contributions to the geophysical sciences by a young scientist.

Deadline for Nominations is November 1, 1983.

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Primaries duties are the operation and maintenance of a fully automated microprobe with WDS and EDS capabilities and the supervision of associated laboratory facilities. Additional duties include the instruction of research personnel in instrument operation and maintenance, and the preparation of geological materials.

Applicants should have a M.S. degree in a science or engineering field, or equivalent experience, and experience with electron beam instrumentation.

Persons with a working knowledge of WDS and EDS systems and the accompanying computer operation, and experience analyzing geological samples will be preferred.

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